



## Those Amazing Animal Babies

It is always amazing to me how the cold, dreary and relatively silent days of winter in the outdoor world are miraculously transformed into scenes of color, sound and activity in the spring. Green appears as growing plants begin their production. Early blossoming trees and spring wildflowers add a welcome burst of color to the earthy tones of the forest and fields. Birds that have kept silent during the winter or who have recently returned from warmer climates announce their presence and territory in marvelous symphonies. And, of course, almost every living creature outside of our doors (or sometimes in) instinctively seeks to keep the cycle of life turning by contributing a new generation of young. Baby creatures, we might say.

Most people, I believe, fail to appreciate just how intricate and finely balanced the natural world is. After all, that squirrel we see running across the yard with a hickory nut in its mouth is just supposed to be there. Similarly, I think most people fail to appreciate the process by which wild animals bring the next generation into the world. Again, that is just their job, and we don't give it a second thought. But if we choose any wild Missouri animal and take a closer look at what their young must endure in order to survive, I think we may be more appreciative and definitely amazed.

Take, for example, the elusive black bear. Although not true hibernators, they will curl up in a cave, a den, or just a depression in the ground and sleep the winter

away. The mother gives birth to several cubs in January or February while half asleep, and then sleeps through the first few months of their development while they nurse. Those are some self-sufficient babies! How about Mama Possum? Imagine, as a human, carrying around a load of babies in a pouch while you go about your daily business. Then, when those youngsters get a little too big, they all climb onto your back for a ride around. Sounds like fun, right?

It is always impressive to me as to how much work birds put into preparing and caring for their young. Imagine constructing an elaborate nest, with only a beak, that provides cover and concealment for your young. I have seen bird nests survive powerful storms that have ripped roofs off of barns! Or have you ever witnessed a small bird dive-bombing a dangerous predator, with little regard for their own safety, in defense of that nest? And most people are probably familiar with the process by which baby birds get their food delivered. No choo-choo train spoon for hungry baby birds, just pre-chewed goodness, straight down the throat!

Of course, many baby creatures do not have the advantage of parental protection. Female turtles will often travel a great distance from water to find a suitable spot in which to dig a hole and deposit her eggs. If a hungry raccoon does not sniff them out and make a meal of them, they still have to develop, hatch, and make the long and perilous journey to a protective body of water. The list of



wild creatures, both in and out of the water, that consider a baby turtle a delicacy is quite extensive. So if you see a large turtle sunning itself on a log at the edge of the pond, it has faced a great deal of danger to become that size.

Or how about the incredible world of insects? Most insects you see in the spring have gone through an entire winter as an egg. The chances of being eaten at this stage are incredibly high, let alone when they hatch and face an entire fleet of hungry birds desperate for food. It is a wonder any survive at all! But they do. And that just illustrates the point of how balanced the natural world around us really is.

Whether its coyote pups tussling in the dust or tadpoles wriggling around in a puddle, baby animals are a joy to watch and learn from. Just be glad your first meals in life did not consist of pre-chewed worms!

-Greg Jacobs  
Naturalist

# Tadpoles

(Shared nature experiences for 0-2 year olds and an attending adult.)



## March

**Saturday, March 23-10 AM**

### Duck, Duck, Goose

Did you know that the Canada goose nests on the ground and the wood duck nests in a hollow tree? Discover how these two different water birds build nests. We will go in search of goose nests down at the pond. **Ages 0-2. Registration begins March 1.**

## April

**Saturday, April 27-10 AM**

### Yip, Yip, Hooray!

Coyote pups are being born this time of year! What does their home look like? What do they eat? How do they communicate? Listen to sounds and stories as we learn more about these wild canines. **Ages 0-2. Registration begins April 2.**

## May

**Saturday, May 25-10 AM**

### Going on a Bear Picnic

Are you as hungry as a bear? Black bears like to eat some of the things we do such as blueberries and blackberries. Find out what else is on the menu as we head outside in search of food for a "bear picnic." **Ages 0-2. Registration begins May 1.**

# Mudpuppies

(45-minute programs for 3-6 year olds and an attending adult.)



## March

**Saturday, March 16-10 AM or 11:30 AM**

**Tuesday, March 19-9 AM or 11 AM**

### The Martins are Coming!

With a swoop and a swish Purple martins are gearing up to raise their chicks. Come and see what keeps our martin parents so busy – from nest building to catching live insects for their babies. You won't want to miss learning about these high-flying, lean, mean, insect-eating machines. **Ages 3-6. Registration begins March 1.**

## April

**Saturday, April 20-10 AM or 11:30 AM**

**Tuesday, April 23-9 AM or 11 AM**

### Terrific Toads!

What goes hop, hop, and hop in the night, has bumpy skin, and likes to eat worms? A toad, of course! Discover the importance of toads through playing games and exploring outside. **Ages 3-6. Registration begins April 2.**

## May

**Saturday, May 18-10 AM or 11:30 AM**

**Tuesday, May 21-9 AM or 11 AM**

### Chiggers and Ticks

Itchy and scratchy may be what these tiny pests mean to you; but there's a lot more to be known. Delve deep into the lives of ticks and chiggers and learn how to prevent these beasts from biting you and what to do if you get bitten. **Ages 3-6. Registration begins May 1.**

## Kids' Club Program Information

## March

**Saturday, March 30**

**10-11:30 AM**

### Build a Bat Box

With the spread of white-nose syndrome decimating Missouri's bat population it is more important than ever to provide clean living spaces for our beneficial bats. Learn the importance of bats and build a bat box to take home. **Ages 7-11. Registration begins March 1.**



## April

**April 5 • Friday • 5-8 PM**

**Snappers – Froggy Friday**

**Snappers will not meet in April. Please bring your family to Froggy Friday!**

## May

**Saturday, May 4**

**10-11:30 AM**

### Aquatic Investigation

There are many fascinating creatures lurking beneath the surface of any pond, lake, or stream in Missouri. Participants will use aquatic collection equipment to investigate the inhabitants of our fishing pond. **Ages 7-11. Early registration begins April 15.**

## April

**Saturday, April 27-10 AM-3 PM**



### Spring Hike

Spring is the perfect time to get out and go on a hike! Explore Millstream Gardens Conservation Area and enjoy the incredible view. Hopefully, we'll get a glimpse of some of the intriguing plants and animals that call that area home. Please bring a lunch and water bottle.

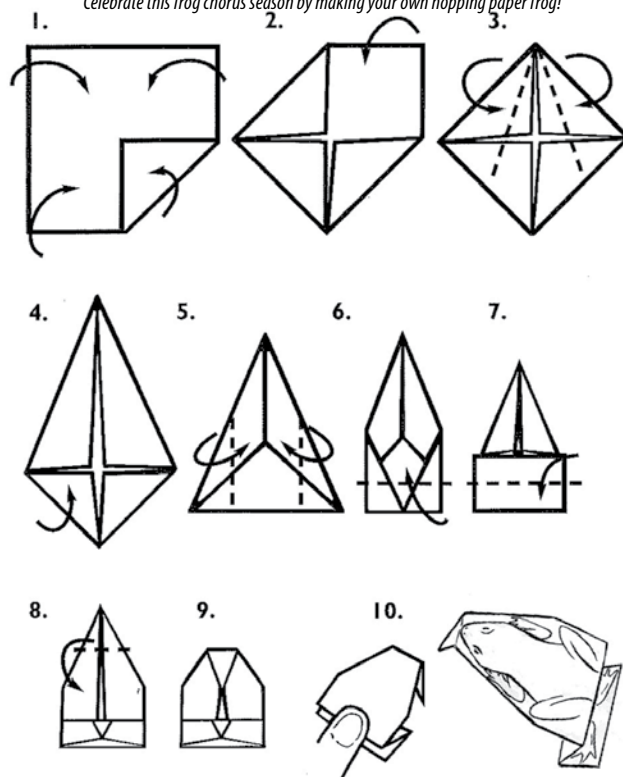
**Ages 12-15. Registration begins April 2.**

# KIDS

# ORNER

### Origami Frog

*Celebrate this frog chorus season by making your own hopping paper frog!*



# Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

2289 County Park Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/297](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/297)

## MARCH

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 573-290-5218 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% "Design for Conservation" sales tax. There is no admission charge.

### BUILDING HOURS

Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM  
Closed Sundays, Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas

### AREA HOURS

Daily: Sunrise–10 PM in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages. The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.

Phone: 573/290-5218

Fax: 573/290-5566

### Tree ID & Characteristics

March 2 • Saturday • 9 AM–NOON

*Registration begins December 1 (ages 11+)*

Identify trees and the key characteristics that make them attractive for your yard or business from Certified Arborist James Rocca. Workshop held at the nature center. Registration is \$15 at the Arena Building.

### Art Gallery–March

Visit the nature center's gallery in March to view "Through My Eyes," a photography exhibit by Rebecca Moore.

### Birds of Prey

March 2 • Saturday • 11 AM or 2 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Free Again Rehabilitation Center will provide live raptor presentations to reveal some of the amazing adaptations that put these birds at the top of the food chain. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Bringing Nature Home

March 8 • Friday • 6–8 PM

*Early registration begins February 1 (ages 11+)*

Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, will discuss the essentials of keeping our yards and gardens in working order and the consequences of failing to do so. Native plant vendors will be on hand for your buying convenience.

### Native Plant Seminar

March 9 • Saturday • 8 AM–3 PM

*Early registration begins February 1 (ages 16+)*

Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, will dispel native plant misconceptions and suggest ways to make your property a showpiece using native plants without losing their ecological function in the local ecosystem. Call the nature center about session times and speakers. Seating is limited. Registration ends February 28.

### Nature Center at Night:

#### Wildlife Folklore

March 14 • Thursday • 5–8 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Have you ever wondered where some of our myths, legends, and old wives' tales come from concerning wild animals? Join us for one of two presentations at 5:30pm or 6:30pm and discover some amazing facts and folklore about our Missouri wildlife. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Nature Art: Wildflower Memories

March 14 • Thursday • 6:30–8 PM or

March 23 • Saturday • 2–3:30 PM

*Registration begins March 1 (ages 16+)*

Although we are lucky to have wildflowers bloom throughout most of the year here in southeast Missouri, spring is still a great time to get out and really look for them. Make a two-page scrapbook layout that you can use to showcase your wildflower finds.

### Family Orienteering:

#### Quest For Leprechaun Gold

March 16 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

*Registration begins March 1 (ages 8 and up)*

Those tricky leprechauns have hidden their gold near the nature center once again! You just may find it with some handy compass skills and a little luck.

### Conservation Café with Rebecca Moore

March 19 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

*Registration begins March 1 (ages 8+)*

Enjoy light refreshments as self-taught photographer Rebecca Moore shares her passion and inspiration for photography. She'll provide tips for capturing photos from local county roads and areas throughout our great state.

### Helping Birds of Conservation Concern

March 21 • Thursday • 6:30–8 PM

*No registration required (ages 16+)*

Larry Heggemann of the American Bird Conservancy will discuss declining bird populations in our region, why they are in peril and how the bird conservation community is working to improve their future.

### Discovery Hike

March 23 • Saturday • 9:30–10:30 AM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Discover nature as we explore the Ridgetop and PawPaw Valley trails behind the nature center to see what is blooming and what is moving. Be sure to bring your family and friends to experience the fun! Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Aquatic Relatives of the Dinosaurs

March 23 • Saturday • 2–3:30 PM

*Registration begins March 1 (ages 8+)*

Come hear about the pallid sturgeon and its incredible journey from a trajectory of extinction to increasing abundance in Missouri's large rivers. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Container Gardening

March 30 • Saturday • 9 AM–NOON

*Registration begins March 1 (ages 18+)*

Have you always wanted a garden, but just don't have the space or time to mess with one? Learn how to use various pots to create your very own container garden that will be perfect for your porch or patio. Bring three containers of your choice.

### Garden Tour:

#### Gardening for Your Health

March 30 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

*No registration required (ages 8+)*

Get in shape along with your garden! Working in your plant bed is great healthy exercise. Learn techniques for burning calories with some muscle-flexing gardening moves that are safe for your knees and back, too.



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## APRIL

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 573-290-5218 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

### Froggy Friday Night

April 5 • Friday • 5-9 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

April showers not only bring spring flowers, but a melody of spring frogs as well! Join us as we celebrate all things froggy through games, activities, crafts, displays, and hourly frog call presentations & hikes. Presentations will begin at 5pm, followed by the frog call hike. The last presentation and hike will begin at 8 pm. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Right Tree, Right Place!

April 6 • Saturday • 9 AM-NOON

*Registration begins December 1 (ages 11+)*

Learn how to select the right tree for the location considering light, growth rate and size with Certified Arborist Bruce Vawter. Gain tips for planting and caring for trees from pruning to recognizing problems. This is part three of a workshop series at the nature center sponsored by the MDC, Cape Parks and Recreation and Southeast Missouri State University. Registration is \$15 and must be completed in person at the Arena Building.

### Wildflower Walk: Juden Creek

April 10 • Wednesday • 1-4 PM

*Early registration begins March 15 (ages 16+)*

Spring is here and the wildflowers are popping out. Join Volunteer Naturalist Michael Fiehler on this week's spring wildflower walk at Juden Creek Conservation Area as you search for early bloomers.

### Nature Center at Night: Baby Animals

April 11 • Thursday • 5-8 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Everyone loves babies, especially cute, cuddly baby wild animals. None of us would ever dream of intentionally harming any of these precious little creatures, but sometimes our actions, as well-meaning as they may be, do just that. Attend our presentation at 6 or 7pm and find out what you should or shouldn't do to help baby wild animals. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Nature Art: Landscape Painting

April 11 • Thursday • 6:30-8 PM and

April 13 • Saturday • 2-3:30 PM

*Registration begins April 2 (ages 16+)*

Capturing a landscape's image through pastel or oil painting is a very personal experience. Bring a favorite landscape photo with you and learn how to turn it into a work of art. In addition to the photo, please bring a stretched canvas and a few paintbrushes. This is a two-part class.

### Garden Tour: Nifty Natives

April 13 • Saturday • 9:30-11 AM

*No registration required (ages 8+)*

Discover the wonders of using native plants in your gardening endeavors during this month's walk through the garden beds. Members of our Naturescaping Team will point out and discuss some native alternatives to common cultivated shrubs and wildflowers while many of them are in bloom.

*Missourians care about conserving forests, fish and wildlife.*

### Discovery Table: Baby Animals

April 13 • Saturday • 1-4 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

What should you do if you find a baby bunny all alone in your yard? If you find a baby bird that has fallen from its nest, should you pick it up and put it back? Stop by and explore various abandoned or injured baby animal scenarios such as these and find out what you should do the next time you encounter a similar situation in your own back yard. Youth and adult groups welcome.

*We help people discover nature.*

### Wildflower Walk at Juden Creek

April 20 • Saturday • 9 AM-NOON

*Registration begins April 2 (ages 8+)*

Enjoy a stroll through this wildflower-rich conservation area located right here in Cape Girardeau. This will be a leisurely walk just to see what's in bloom. Depending on when spring arrives this year, we may see any variety of wildflowers from the common Spring Beauty to possibly the rare Orchid.

### Art Gallery-April

"Nature's Gifts, Large and Small" is a collection of photography by Gail Rowley that includes stunning close-up surprises. Take the time this month to view photos of plants, animals and landscapes.

### Spring Bird Walk

April 20 • Saturday • 9-10:30 AM

*Registration begins April 2 (ages 5+)*

Spring is a great time to view and listen to songbirds. While some nest in this area, others are migrating through to areas much further north. Join expert birders along the nature center trails as they help find and identify these magnificent birds. No birding experience necessary.

### Meet the Artist: Gail Rowley

April 20 • Saturday • 2-4 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Gail Rowley, nature enthusiast, photographer and owner of Ozark Stream Photography, will be here to share her wide spectrum of photos that includes native plants, birds, animals, streams and habitats. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Wild Turkey Biology

April 23 • Tuesday • 6:30-8 PM

*Registration begins April 2 (all ages)*

Learn about Wild turkeys in Missouri: the history of reintroduction projects, wildlife habitat management techniques for turkeys, and the biology of this important game animal. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Wildflower Walk: Apple Creek

April 24 • Wednesday • 1-4 PM

*Registration begins April 2 (ages 16+)*

Wildflowers carpet the forest floor as trees and shrubs begin opening up once again. Join Volunteer Naturalist Michael Fiehler to walk a few short trails in search of wildflowers at Apple Creek Conservation Area.

### Bashin' Trash: Cape LaCroix Creek

April 27 • Saturday • 9 AM-NOON

*Early registration begins March 1 (all ages)*

Gather your friends, family or organization to help bring the beauty back to the creek between the nature center and Shawnee Sports Complex. We'll meet at the 4-H Shelter in Arena Park to divide and conquer. Lunch and t-shirts will be provided at Capaha Park afterwards. Youth and adult groups welcome.

MDC  
**DISCOVER**  
**nature**

# Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

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## Art Gallery-May

Visit the nature center gallery to view "Outdoor Inspiration," a photography exhibit by Dan Bernskoetter.

## WildHeart in Concert

May 3 • Friday • 7-8 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Do you "dig" nature? Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a musical journey digging into the deep roots that nature has to offer! Take a peek at their mini backyard zoo, too! This Parent's Choice® and Emmy Award® winning family group of focuses on bringing the heart of the wild to the heart of the child.

## Bashin' Trash on the Riverfront

May 4 • Saturday • 9-11 AM

*Early registration begins April 2 (all ages)*

Gather your friends, family, or organization to help bring beauty back to the riverfront. Wear old clothes and boots and meet at the shelter in front of Hutson's Furniture to get trash bags and receive your assignment. Youth and adult groups welcome

## Good Fishin' Holes

May 4 • Saturday • 9 AM-3 PM

*Early registration begins April 16 (ages 8+)*

Enjoy fishing but just not sure where to go? During this drive through southeast Missouri, we'll stop at conservation areas and check out the fishing potential. You'll receive insight about what species to expect, how to spot quality habitat, and learn how to make your next visit productive and enjoyable.

## Garden Tour: Trees & Shrubs

May 4 • Saturday • 1-2:30 PM

*No registration required (ages 8+)*

Gardens and other "naturescaped" areas may be greatly enhanced by adding trees and shrubs. On this stroll around the nature center and a short way down the trail, we'll discuss how different species can be used as a border, a featured ornamental, or as an addition to your wooded areas.

## Nature Boxing

May 4 • Saturday • 2-3:30 PM

*Early registration begins April 16 (all ages)*

Solve riddles and find clues to nature boxes located on our trails. This is a great activity for the whole family. Youth and adult groups welcome.

## Homeschool: Layers of Leaves

May 8 • Wednesday • 9:30-11:30 AM

or 1-3 PM

*Early registration begins April 16 (ages 6+)*

The forest is a very complex ecosystem. Join us as we peel back the layers of the forest to uncover some of the most amazing animals. We will interactively examine each layer and reveal the unique features of the forest.

## Spring Bird Walk

May 9 • Thursday • 9-10:30 AM

*Early registration begins April 16 (ages 8+)*

Spring is a great time to view and listen to songbirds. While some nest in this area, others are migrating through to areas much further north. Join expert birders along the nature center trails as they help find and identify these magnificent birds. No birding experience necessary.

## Nature Center at Night: Snakes

May 9 • Thursday • 5-8 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Who's that snake slithering through your backyard? Learn how to identify some of our local snakes by taking a close-up look at some of our live snakes. Then, attend one of the two naturalist-led snake presentations at 6 or 7pm. Youth and adult groups welcome.

## Flyfishing

May 9 • Thursday • 6-8:30 PM

or May 11 • Saturday • 9-11:30 AM

or 1-3:30 PM

*Early registration begins April 16 (ages 8+)*

Learn the basics of flyfishing or pick up a few new technical skills. We'll cover equipment selection and use, reading the water, matching the hatch, fly casting, fishing techniques, and essential knots. Ages 16 and over must be in possession of a valid fishing permit. Flyfishing equipment available for loan.

## Nature Art: Native Dolls

May 9 • Thursday • 6:30-8 PM

*Early registration begins April 16 (ages 16+)*

Decorate a pre-cut doll figure with natural and recycled materials that reflects your heritage. Discover a new way to create art using scraps of fabric, ribbon, paper, or whatever! Make your doll unique by adding any odds-n-ends we've tucked away for you to use.

## Nature Art: Native Dolls

May 11 • Saturday • 2-3:30 PM

*Early registration begins April 16 (ages 16+)*

Decorate a pre-cut doll figure with natural and recycled materials that reflects your heritage. Discover a new way to create art using scraps of fabric, ribbon, paper, or whatever! Make your doll unique by adding any odds-n-ends we've tucked away for you to use.

## Advanced Shroomology

May 11 • Saturday • 10-11:30 AM

*Registration begins May 1 (all ages)*

Interested in mushrooms or mushroom hunting? Discuss varieties of commonly encountered fungi in Missouri and explore the unique and exciting variations. This advanced mushroom class will provide details for identification; morphological clues and discussions of edibility.

# MAY

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 573-290-5218 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

## Wildflower Walk: Trail of Tears

May 15 • Wednesday • 1-4 PM

*Registration begins May 1 (ages 16+)*

Many wildflowers dot the landscape throughout the river hills of Trail of Tears State Park. Join Volunteer Naturalist Michael Fiehler on a few short trails to search out, identify, and enjoy these spring bloomers.

## Lake Paddle for Women

May 18 • Saturday • 9 AM-3 PM

*Registration begins May 1 (ages 16 and up)*

Ladies, May is a great time to enjoy the late spring weather on the water. Brush up on your canoe skills and go for a casual paddle around Perry County Lake, looking for spring wildflowers and wildlife along the way. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or reserve one from the nature center.

## Plants and Pollinators Trail Hike

May 25 • Saturday • 10-11 AM

or 11:30 AM-NOON

*No registration required (ages 8+)*

Experience a naturalist-led hike on our nature center trails and learn about some of our interesting forest plants and the pollinators that visit them. Wear good hiking shoes and bring a bottle of water along.

### Coming in June

#### Outdoor Adventure Camp

June 6-7                      June 11-12

June 20-21                  June 25-26

**8:30 AM-4:30 PM**

*Early registration begins May 15 (ages 7-11)*

Join us to practice outdoor skills like hiking, canoeing, and fishing. We will also visit local conservation areas to discover the unique habitats of southeast Missouri. Participants are required to register for and attend both days of camp. Please provide a sack lunch for both days.

#### Families in Nature

June 8 • Saturday • 1-3 PM

*Early registration begins May 15 (all ages)*

Help us turn the tide on nature deficit disorder. Learn about this phenomenon and how it affects your family; then enjoy a sampling of outdoor activities we have planned to counteract it. Please bring a picnic lunch and plan on staying the entire day.

## Educators' Niche

### Nature Deficit Disorder Tidbit

In an 18 month study of 800 military personnel, those who grew up hunting or in "tough" urban neighborhoods were best at spotting and detecting roadside bombs. This was attributed to learning to view the full world around them while using all their senses. In contrast, those who spent more time at the mall or on Game Boys had a narrower focus. Their view of the world was limited to that just outside the windshield of the Humvee, similar to a computer screen.

Tony Perry, "Some Troops have a Sixth Sense for Bombs," Los Angeles Times, October 28, 2009



For information about upcoming trainings and workshops, please contact Bridget Jackson at [bridget.jackson@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:bridget.jackson@mdc.mo.gov) or call 573-290-5858 ext 300. You can also visit the MO Dept of Conservation's website at [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov)

## What's HOT in the NATURE SHOP!

\*Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply

### March/April

#### Missouri's Wild Mushrooms

A guide to hunting, identifying and cooking the state's most common mushrooms. A must-have for outdoor lovers, mushroom enthusiasts and cooks, the book features color photographs and detailed descriptions of 102 species. As a bonus, chanterelle quiche and 23 other simple and elegant recipes will awaken your foraging instincts!



**Discounted price:**  
**\$11.20 plus tax**

The Nature Shop features a variety of nature-related books, videos/DVDs, and resources to increase awareness and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

#### Cooking Wild in Missouri

Whether you hunt, fish, or forage, Bernadette Dryden's collection of recipes offers imaginative, fresh ideas for turning your harvest into a mouth-watering feast. With an emphasis on local, seasonal ingredients and a scope encompassing a variety of cultures and cuisines, Cooking Wild in Missouri is sure to earn a trusted spot in your kitchen.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$12.00 plus tax**

**20% Off\***  
these monthly  
specials!

### May/June

#### Show-Me Herps

An uncommonly colorful guide to 50 cool amphibians and reptiles in Missouri. Produced in the format of the popular Show-Me Bugs book, this guide to 50 salamanders, toads, frogs, turtles, lizards and snakes will charm naturalists of all ages. Illustrator Steve Buchanan—who so stunningly brought Missouri insects to life in Show-Me Bugs—works his same magic here.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$6.36 plus tax**

#### Show-Me Bugs

Show-Me Bugs introduces you to Missouri's most fascinating and most ecologically important wildlife. Use it to get to know some of the little creatures that help keep the Show-Me state clean, green and natural. This book is finely detailed with full-color illustrations. It is fun to read, perfect for kids, families, teachers and gardeners.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$6.36 plus tax**

### Ask the Naturalist

#### How long does a baby opossum stay with its mother?

Like most mammals, mother opossums are very attentive. They are different from other mammals, however, in that they have a special pouch on their bellies. It is in this fur-lined pouch that the mothers keep their young safe. When a baby opossum is born, it is slightly smaller than a pinkie fingernail. The mother can usually raise 5-13 young at a time. They are born hairless and blind, much too vulnerable to be left in a burrow or den. They use their front claws to climb about 4 to 5 times their body length into their mother's pouch. They stay inside their mother's pouch for about two months. When they grow too large for the pouch, they crawl out of the pouch onto their mother's back. They remain with their mother for another month or two and then venture out on their own.





# Volunteer Corner

## More than a Flintknapper

You think you know a guy fairly well and then he goes and surprises you. When Fred Bollinger first joined the nature center volunteer program years ago, we thought we had found a skilled flintknapper who could provide demonstrations and programs from time to time. Over the next few years we would learn that "Arrowhead Fred" is more than just a highly talented flintknapper. His expertise extends to Native American culture, artifact identification, and many natural history topics. And, yes, he has indeed provided many hours of demonstrations. It's encouraging to watch him patiently instruct a young person in how to chip out an arrowhead or work a pump drill.



Fred Bollinger instructs a visitor in the fine art of flintknapping

Fred is a fine gentleman, compassionate towards those he encounters, humble about his talents and achievements, and willing to do whatever needs to be done. He has served as one of our Purple martin caretakers, helps maintain trails, fixes arrows, portrays costumed characters in skits, and has repaired fishing poles hundreds of times. Fred's dedicated and consistent service is appreciated week after week.

Fred recently reached 2000 hours of volunteer service at the nature center. That's the equivalent of one year of full time work. The next time you see "Arrowhead Fred" Bollinger, please congratulate him and thank him for his many contributions.

-Steven Juhlin

## Volunteer Milestones

**100 Hours**  
**Jamie Koehler**

**1500 Hours**  
**Ome Hayward**

**300 Hours**  
**Jen Behnken**  
**Daniel Cook**

**2000 Hours**  
**Fred Bollinger**



White-tailed deer  
*Odocoileus virginianus*

*Thank You*  
*for donations of Time, Material, and Service*  
*Library materials: Michelle Randecker*  
*and Fred Bollinger*  
*Underwater camera: Charlie Wilson*  
*Stone duck call: Jack Stone*

White-tailed deer fawns in Missouri are typically born in late May or early June and weigh just 4-7 pounds at birth. When fawns are born the mother must leave them for several hours in order to feed herself and avoid attracting attention to the newborn. If found, fawns should be left alone so that they will be in the same place when the mother returns.

More fun than a pond full of frogs!

**April 5th, 5-9pm**

- Frog call presentation and hike (5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm)
- Frog games and activities!
- Frog crafts!
- Live Missouri frog displays!
- Froggy prizes!

**froggy friday**

*Saturday, April 27, 9-NOON--Cape LaCroix Creek*

*Saturday, May 4, 9-11 AM--Cape Riverfront*



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